

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /071 W

-----109361 251855Z /44

P R 251810Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3902

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO POUCH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION USNATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN EGER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

COMUSFORAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: EANES APPEALS FOR CALM

SUMMARY: IN HIS NOV 25 ADDRESS AT THE TANCOS AIR BASE, PRESIDENT EANES CALLED UPON THE MILITARY TO REJECT PARTISAN MANEUVERS AND APPEALS TO AUTHORITARIANISM. HE ASSURED THE TROOPS THAT DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ARE CAPABLE OF RESOLVING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. EANES DID NOT PREEMPT ONGOING POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS, BUT MOVED TO SHORE UP HIS IMAGE BY STRESSING HIS READINESS TO ACT AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT. END SUMMARY.

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1. PRESIDENT RAMALHO EANES SPOKE NOV 25 AT THE TANCOS AIR BASE WHERE THE ABORTIVE LEFT-WING MUTINY ORIGINATED TWO YEARS AGO. EANES ADDRESSED THE ASSEMBLED MILITARY BRASS, DEFENSE ATTACHES, THE PRIME MINISTER, AND ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT FOR 30 MINUTES IN HIS RAPID-FIRE MONOTONE. EANES URGED STRICT ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLES OF MILITARY HIERARCHY AND DISCIPLINE. HE RECALLED THE DISORDER

WITHIN MILITARY RANKS IN 1975 AND REJECTED EFFORTS TO INVOLVE THE ARMED FORCES IN PARTISAN DISPUTES. OTHER POINTS MADE BY EANES WERE:

-- REJECTION OF TOTALITARIANISM: THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE HAVE REPEATEDLY REJECTED TOTALITARIANISM OF THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT IN FAVOR OF DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM.
-- APPEAL TO "SERENITY AND REALISM": PORTUGAL IS FACING A DIFFICULT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION, BUT DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ARE CAPABLE OF RESOLVING THESE DIFFICULTIES. THE "FALSE PROPHETS OF AUTHORITARIANISM" MUST BE REJECTED.
-- OTHER DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVES REMAIN: THE POLITICAL PARTIES ARE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING AN ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT. SHOULD THEY FAIL, THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE ALARMED BECAUSE THERE ARE CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS AVAILABLE TO FIND THE SOLUTIONS WHICH BEST SERVES THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

2. MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS: THE PRESIDENT, AS ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF, ISSUED A STATEMENT NOV 25 TO ALL MILITARY MEN CALLING FOR RESPECT FOR DISCIPLINE AND HIERARCHY AND FOR REJECTION OF POLITICAL PRESSURES AND PARTISAN MANEUVERS. HE ASKED THE MILITARY TO REPUDIATE

ATTEMPTS TO LEAD PORTUGAL TO A DICTATORIAL REGIME. HE STATED THAT HE IS ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE MILITARY EFFICIENCY THROUGH BETTER TRAINING AND MODERNIZATION OF EQUIPMENT.
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3. EARLY REACTIONS: THE CDS IS PLEASED WITH THE SPEECH AND IS PREPARED TO ISSUE A STATEMENT BACKING THE PRESIDENT. OTHER EANES SUPPORTERS WILL ALSO BE PLEASED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S FIRM STAND AGAINST LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST AUTHORITARIANISM. RIGHT WINGERS WILL BE DISAPPOINTED, AND SA CARNEIRO CAN BE EXPECTED TO KEEP UP HIS CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT.

4. COMMENT: PRESIDENT EANES'S PRINCIPAL MESSAGE WAS DIRECTED AT THE ARMED FORCES--TO REMIND THEM OF THEIR MILITARY MISSION AND THE CHAOS WHICH IS THE ALTERNATIVE TO DISCIPLINE AND RESPECT FOR THE HIERARCHY. HE MADE NO MOVES TO PREEMPT ONGOING POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS, BUT MOVED TO SHORE UP HIS IMAGE BY STRESSING HIS READINESS TO ACT AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
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Sent Date: 25-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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SAS ID: 456698
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EANES APPEALS FOR CALM SUMMARY: IN HIS NOV 25 ADDRESS AT THE TANCOS AIR BASE, PRESIDENT EANES CALLED UPON THE MILITARY TO REJECT
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2420b911-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009